



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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July 17, 2002

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Paul Baker, Reclamation Biologist *PHB*

RE: Site Inspection, Absolute Mining and Minerals, Inc., AMMI Project, S/019/035, Grand County, Utah

Date of Inspection: June 11, 2002  
Time of Inspection: 10:00 until 11:10 a.m.  
Conditions: Clear, 70's  
Participants: Paul Baker, DOGM

#### **Purpose of Inspection:**

The operator was supposed to have finished reclaiming a portion of the site by May 31, 2002, so the purpose of the inspection was to check whether this was completed.

#### **Getting to the site:**

From the Dewey Bridge along the Colorado River, turn east for 3.9 miles. At the top of a couple of switchbacks, there is a road leading to the left. Follow this road for 3.5 miles to the gate. The mine is about 1/4 mile past the gate.

#### **Observations:**

I could see no changes to the site since Doug Jensen and I inspected it on April 20, 2002. I looked for fresh vehicle tracks or signs of recent grading but saw none that appeared to be more recent than last fall when the operator did some limited reclamation work. Comparing the site with photos taken in 1999, however, it is evident a lot of scrap and debris have been removed.

According to the May 2, 2001, letter from the Division to the operator, two areas were supposed to be reclaimed by May 31, 2002. These are a 0.92-acre pad area and an area at the top of a hill containing 0.71 acres.

I could see evidence of last fall's reclamation on top of the hill. It appears that some soil was brought to the top of the hill and graded around the sides (Photo 1). This material is a different color

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than the material existing on the hill, and it looks like it might make a better growth medium. Before the rest of the hill is covered with soil, some areas will need to be graded (Photo 2).

I looked for the place from which the soil came, and it appears to have been borrowed from some of the processed material just north of the disturbed area boundary (Photo 3). There were fairly fresh tracks leading to this area, and it was obvious a few scoops of this material had been removed. The travelway and area from which the material was removed is about 90 feet long and about 12 feet wide for a total area of about 1080 square feet. Although this is not a large area—only 0.02 acres—it brings the total disturbed area up to exactly 5.0 acres from 4.98.

I saw no evidence of any recent reclamation efforts in the pad area (Photo 4).

#### **Conclusions and Recommendations:**

The operator has not done the reclamation work that was committed to in various letters, most recently on December 24, 2001. In this letter, Griffith Lyn Kimball, a partner in the operation, said, "We agree to have this [required reclamation work] completed by the end of May 2002 weather permitting." The area has been in an extended drought which, though not good for revegetation, makes accessing the site and doing the required grading work possible.

The operator has already been issued a notice of noncompliance and has had conferences with the Associate Director of Mining and with the Division Director. The Division needs to consider other methods of enforcing its requirements, including a possible notice of agency action.

jb

cc: Denice Swankey, Moab BLM  
Dale Snyder, Absolute Mining and Minerals  
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**ATTACHMENT**

**Photographs**

**S/019/035**

**Absolute Mining and Minerals, AMMI Mine**



Photo 1. Right side shows new soil on top of the knoll. Note the reddish color of the right side compared to the left.



Photo 2. Unreclaimed portion of the top of the knoll.





Photo 3. The upper right portion of the circled area is the place from which it appears soil was taken for reclamation of the knoll. A short travelway is also in the marked area.



Photo 4. Pad area. The area that was to have been reclaimed is to the left of the larger building and extends generally toward the viewer.